

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification on page 3, line 8 as follows:

This problem has previously been recognized and at least one patent, EP0563350 attempts to provide a solution by improving the chip removal paths. In this patent, the motor is still mounted to the rear of the blade cylinder and so it is not possible to move the channels past the drive means motor as it will increase the width of the planer body. Instead, the patent suggests the provision of two channels leading from the cylinder, one passing along a first side of the body and the other passing along the opposing side of the body. The two channels each lead to an opening and the user can control via a valve which of the channels is opened to allow the flow of the chips and debris, with the same leaving the planer body towards the front of the planer at a position in front of the blade cylinder. This complex channel arrangement requires the chips and debris to pass along a relatively long distance and in a direction which is required to be fan assisted as it is against the natural direction in which the chips and debris would flow having been removed from the wooden surface.

Please amend the specification on page 9, line 13 as follows:

A further advantage is achieved with respect to the cuts which are ~~made~~made by the planer by the provision, as indicated in Figure 7a of more than two straight planing blades on the cylinder and in Figure 7b of at least two helical planing blades on the cylinder. In both cases the aim is to ensure that there is more frequent contact between a blade and the surface to be planed in a single rotation of the cylinder than is

conventionally the case with single blade cylinders, thereby reducing the scalloping effect caused by only one blade creating the cut in to the article as opposed to, and in accordance with the invention, a series of blade contacts causing the material removal. This also ensures smaller chippings from the wood, the extraction of the chippings is therefore easier, there is less potential restriction of the discharge and more debris can be collected in the collection means attached to the discharge from the passages.

Please amend the specification on page 10, line 8 as follows:

The planing surface 118 of the planer 110 includes a rear shoe 126 and front shoe 128 which are broad and flat and serve to contact the work surface during use of the tool and maintain an even planing surface. Located above the front shoe 128 at the front of the tool 110 is an adjustment knob 130. Knob 130 is used to adjust the height of the cutting blade assembly 132 relative to a workpiece being planed and this is incorporated in the planer shown in Figures 1-5. The operation of the cutting blade assembly 132 will be discussed in further detail below.

Please amend the specification on page 11, lines 8 and 13 as follows:

Chamber 144 surrounding the blade cylinder 142 has a further opening 146 in the upper rear surface of the chamber 144, which connects the chamber 144 with an exit chute 148. Exit chute 148 links the chamber 144 with an opening 150 at the rear of the planer 110. The opposite end of the exit chute 148 includes a movable passage 154 which is adapted to fit to the rear of the planer 110. In preferred embodiments, the movable passage 154 is instead provided within the planer 110 itself.

Blade cylinder 142 is driven at high speed by a belt drive (not shown) inked to motor 160, which is operated by trigger switch 138. The motor 160 operates in a conventional manner but instead of being located towards the rear of the tool it is located above, in this case directly, above the blade chamber 144. The weight of the motor being directly above the blade assembly provides additional downward force on the cutting blades thereby providing an improved cut and balance to the planer.